

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Confirmation No.: 7893

Kazunori TANIGUCHI et al.

Date: August 13, 2008

Serial No.: 10/630,509

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: July 30, 2003

Examiner: Tuan Van NGUYEN

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

VIA EFS WEB
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §114, of the above-identified application.

The RCE fee of \$810.00 (\$810 - large entity/\$405 - small entity) and any extension/suspension fee, is submitted herewith.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the under-payment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

If this communication is filed after a shortened statutory time period in said pending application had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

If checked, please enter and consider the Amendment previously filed on June 24, 2008 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

If checked, an Amendment and/or Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) and/or IDS is/are

enclosed.

If checked, please consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief and Reply Brief previously submitted.

If checked, suspension of action is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (3 maximum). A petition fee in the amount of \$200.00 is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
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ON AUGUST 13, 2008


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